ASIA 212: Perspectives on Modern Asia
Spring 2015
T/R 1:00 – 2:15
Humanities 117

PROFESSORS

Anuja Jain
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Steven Lewis
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Sonia Ryang
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is concerned, broadly, with the forms and experiences of Asian modernity. In it, we will explore some key issues and processes shaping modern Asian life, including socialism, nationalism, industrialization, capitalism, poverty, activism, globalization, media, gender, transnational kinship, and new religious movements. Rather than attempting a comprehensive overview of topics and geographic locations, we will take a more fluid, fragmentary, and intentionally partial approach to the ways in which diverse actors—such as governmental states and transnational corporations, but also families and individuals—are transforming life in Asia and around the world. The lectures and discussions will focus primarily on critical examinations of social science approaches to understanding Asian modernity, but no background in social science studies is required for the course.

COURSE MATERIALS

All course readings are available on OWL-Space.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Asia Map Quiz: 5% of final grade

We will provide a map to study, and at the beginning of the 1/27 session we will ask you to fill in the names of countries and regions that have been removed from that map.

THREE Take-Home Essay Exams: 25% of grade each
You will be required to complete three take-home essay exams. These exams will give you an opportunity to reflect upon and synthesize issues that we have discussed in previous weeks. For each essay, we will provide you with a list of topics/questions from which to choose. Please submit an electronic copy as a **.doc or .docx** file by email to all three instructors by the due date as listed below. Please bring one hard copy to class the following day.

Take-Home exam 1	posted: 2/12	Due: 2/19
Take-Home exam 2	posted: 3/12	Due: 3/19
Take-Home exam 3	posted: 4/7	Due: 4/14

Each exam essay should be **1000-1250 words**, in a **black**, **12pt font**, **double-spaced**, printed **double-sided** (if possible), and have **stapled**, **numbered** pages. Please provide the **word count** at the end of the paper. You will have just one week to complete each exam.

Transnational China Advertising Project: 10% of grade
You will form small groups of researchers (2 or 3 students each) and use the online images of subway advertisements in Chinese cities collected by the Transnational China Project to test a theory about the relationship between advertising media and globalization that you have created. Each group will give a short presentation, using no more than 25 slides, during the April 9-23 sessions. Each group must submit via e-mail to all three instructors a Microsoft-operating-system-compatible Powerpoint presentation file by midnight the night before the assigned presentation day, and also bring a copy on USB flash device to the presentation. Note that you if you choose a research topic that is related to a topic presented by other students previously in class you must refer to that previous presentation and briefly discuss how your question, methods and conclusion differ from that of the previous presentation.

Individual reflection/assessment of Advertising Project: 10% of grade
You will write a 500-word essay briefly outlining your theory about the relationship between media and globalization and then discussing how successfully you personally believe it was tested using the images of the Transnational China Project. This is your chance to respond to questions and criticisms from other members of the class and the instructors. You are also expected to attend the presentations of all the groups and give them constructive feedback. In this reflection piece, you should compare your theory and presentation to the work of other groups. You can also add any thoughts you yourself have about future research to test your theory using similar types of resources. This will be due by 5 p.m. on the day after the last class, 4/24, in electronic format sent to all three instructors via e-mail.

Late submission policy

Opportunities for Extra Credit
You may earn extra credit for attending lectures offered by the Chao Center for Asian Studies this spring. The schedule of lectures can be found on center's website at chaocenter.rice.edu. In order to be eligible for extra credit, you must submit a 250-word response in which you summarize the argument of the lecture, offer your own reflections, and, if relevant, make connections with course readings. Responses must be submitted within one week following the lecture. Depending on the quality of your response, you will receive 1 point, 0.5 point, or no points added to your final course grade. You may submit up to two responses for extra credit during the course of the semester.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

In order to do well in this course, you must keep up with assigned readings and attend classes. Although this is primarily a lecture course, we encourage class participation, and will call on students to help develop ideas and work out problems. We expect you to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. This means expressing your thoughts and opinions about the readings or other relevant materials. It does not mean monopolizing class time, going off on your own tangent, or failing to respect your fellow students.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Please do not come to class late or leave early, unless you have made prior arrangements with us. You should reserve any absences for true emergencies or unavoidable schedule conflicts, as repeated absences (regardless of reason) may result in a poor or failing grade. You are responsible for all course material and announcements presented in class. If you have to miss a class, please contact a classmate to find out what was covered, discussed, and handed out.

Please make sure to turn off all phones, pagers, and other devices that might beep, ring, sing, or otherwise distract us during class time. Also, please refrain from carrying on private conversations with those around you during class, even if they are course-related, as they make it difficult for others to hear. We are happy to answer questions during class, so feel free to ask.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are expected to abide by the standards of academic honesty, as set out by the honor system at Rice University. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse, so please contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns about what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with one of us during the first two weeks of class. All such discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 13: Introduction to course

Watching: First part of third section of "The Commanding Heights", by Daniel Yergin, 2002 (DVD available at Fondren).

January 15: Topics: comparative social inquiry, positive theory and empirical research.
Reading: Steven W. Lewis, "What Can I Do for Shanghai? Selling Spiritual Civilization in China's Cities," in *Media in China: Consumption, Content, Crisis*, by Donald, Stephanie Hemelryk, ed., (2002), pp. 139-151.

January 20: Topics: anthropology and the study of "the strange."
Reading: Sonia Ryang, "Sacred Sex," in Sonia Ryang *Love in Modern Japan: Its Estrangement from Self, Sex, and Society* (2006), pp. 9-28, if you can, also pp. 28-34.

January 22: Topics: Media and Politics of Religion in South Asia
Reading: Anuja Jain, "'Beaming it live': 24 hour Television News, the Spectator and the Spectacle of the 2002 Gujarat Carnage," *InterMedia*, Special Issue of the *Journal of South Asian Popular Culture*, by Anustup Basu, Rajinder Dudrah, Sangita Gopal and Amit Rai, 8, No. 2 (July 2010), pp. 163–178.

Section I (Professor Jain)

Colonialism and Emergence of An Indian Public Sphere

January 27:
Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, "The East India Company Raj, 1772-1850," in Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, *A Concise History of India*, ed. (2006), pp. 56-91

Ranajit Guha, "Transmission," in Arvind Rajagopal, *The Indian Public Sphere: Readings in Media History*, ed. (2010), pp. 31-48

MAP QUIZ IN CLASS

History, Memory and Partition of India

January 29:
Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, Ch. 17, "1947: memories and meanings," in Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal*, Modern South Asia: History, Culture and Political Economy*, ed. (2003), pp. 157 – 166

Ira Bhaskar and Richard Allen, "Garam Hawa," in Ira Bhaskar and Richard Allen, *Islamicate Cultures of Bombay Cinema*, ed. (2009), pp. 281-291

To Watch: *Garam Hawa/Hot Winds* (M.S. Sathyu, 1973, Hindi, 146 mins.) available on OWL-Space

Questions of Gender and Politics of Re-telling

February 3:
A.K. Ramanujan, "Two Three Hundred Ramayanas," in *Many Ramayanas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia* (1991), pp. 22-48

Ipshita Chanda, "An Intermedial Reading of Paley's Sita Sings the Blues," in *Comparative Literature and Culture*, 13, No. 3 (2011)

To Watch: *Sita sings the blues* (Nina Paley, 2010, English, 82 min.)
available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzTg7YXuy34

The Sacred and the Secular: Religion and Communalism in Contemporary India

February 5:
Romila Thapar, "Politics and the Rewriting of History in India," in *Critical Quarterly*, 47, Nos. 1–2 (2005), pp. 195-203

Paola Bacchetta, "Sacred Space in Conflict in India: The Babri Masjid Affair," *Growth and Change*, 31 (2000), pp. 255–284

Globalization, Urbanization and New Subjectivities

February 10:
Leela Fernandes, "Restructuring the New Middle Class in Liberalizing India," in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle Eas*t, XX, No. 1&2 (2000), pp. 88-112

To Watch: *Oye Lucky, Lucky Oye*/ *Hey Lucky!* (Dibakar Banerjee, 2008, Hindi, 135 min.) available on OWL- Space

South Asian Diaspora

February 12:
Screening in Class: *Khush/Ecstatic* (Pratibha Parmar, 1991, English, 24 minutes)

Gayatri Gopitnath, "Nostalgia, Desire, Diaspora: South Asian Sexualities in Motion," in *Positions*, 5, No. 2 (Fall 1997), pp. 467-489

February 12: Exam 1 posted on OWL-Space

Section II (Professor Ryang)

Colonialism and Empire

February 17:
Takashi Fujitani, "Introduction: Ethnic and colonial soldiers and the Politics of Disavowal," in Takashi Fujitani, *Race for Empire: Korans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans during WWII* (2011), pp. 1-31.

February 19:
Sonia Ryang, "The Tongue That Divided Life and Death: The 1923 Tokyo Earthquake and the Massacre of Koreans," *Japan Focus/Asia Pacific Journal,* 2007 Online: http://www.japanfocus.org/-Sonia-Ryang/2513

Exam 1 Essay Due by Class Time: Hard Copy Handed in and File Version sent via Email

Division and Diaspora

February 24:
Sonia Ryang, "Introduction; The Sacred Text ion the Making: The Korean Diaspora and Autobiographic Writings," in Sonia Ryang, *Writing Selves in Diaspora*, 2008, pp. xiii-liv.

February 26:
Young Min Moon, "Yearning for Home: Representation of North Koreans in the Work of Kim In Sook," *Photography and Diaspora* 5 (1), 2014 Online:
http://quod.lib.umich.edu/t/tap/7977573.0005.108?view=text;rgn=main
* Note: Professor Moon, the 2014 Guggenheim Fellow, will deliver a guest lecture the Chao Center for Asian Studies in March.

March 3, 5: Spring Break

Totalitarianism and "the Strange"

March 10:
Sonia Ryang, "Introduction: A Journey into the Abyss," in Sonia Ryang *Reading North Korea: An Ethnological Inquiry,* 2012, pp. 1-38.
Watch: "A State of Mind" DVD

March 12:
Sonia Ryang, "Biopolitics or the Logic of Sovereign Love – Love's Whereabouts in North Korea," in Sonia Ryang ed., *North Korea: Toward A Better Understanding,"* 2009, pp. 57-84.

March 12: Exam 2 posted on OWL-Space

Section III (Professor Lewis)

Socialism and Globalization

March 17 and 19:
Liberal Order (Macro and Micro)
Gabriella Montinola, Yingyi Qian & Barry Weingast, "Federalism Chinese Style: The Political Basis for Economic Success," World Politics, 48, No. 1(1995), pp. 50-81.

Barry Naughton, "The Assertive Center: Beijing Moves Against Central Control of Land," China Leadership Monitor, No. 20 (2007), pp. 1-11.

Yunxiang Yan, "Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing." In The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating: A Reader, James Watson and Melissa Caldwell, eds. Pp. 80-103 (2005).

Sangmee Bak, "McDonald's in Seoul: Food Choices, Identity, and Nationalism." In Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia, James Watson, ed. Pp. 136-160 (2006).

March 19: Exam 2 Essays Due by Class Time: Hard Copy Handed in and File Sent Via Email

March 24 and 26:
East Asia and Transnational Kinship
Caren Freeman, "Marrying Up and Marrying Down: The Paradoxes of Marital Mobility for Chosonjok Brides in South Korea," In Cross-Border Marriages, Nicole Constable, ed. Pp. 80-100 (2005).

Thai Hung Cam, "Clashing Dreams in the Vietnamese Diaspora: Highly Educated Overseas Brides and Low-Wage US Husbands," In Cross-Border Marriages, Nicole Constable, ed. Pp. 145-165 (2005).

March 31:
Global Cities
Arjun Appadurai, "Spectral Housing and Urban Cleansing: Notes on Millenial Mumbai," Public Culture, 12, No. 3 (2000), pp. 627-651.

Saskia Sassen, "Locating Cities on Global Circuits," Environment & Urbanization, 14, No. 1 (2002), pp. 13-30.

Ackbar Abbas, "Cosmopolitan De-Scriptions: Shanghai and Hong Kong," Public Culture, 12, No. 3 (2000), pp. 769-786.

April 2: Spring Recess

April 7:
Globalization and the New Media
Steven W. Lewis, "The Media of New Public Spaces in Global Cities: Subway Advertising in Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taipei," Continuum: Journal of Media and Culture, 17, No. 3 (2003), pp. 261-272.

Steven W. Lewis, "Political and Economic Implications of New Public Spaces in Chinese Cities," in Globalization and the Chinese City, Fulong Wu, ed. (2006), pp. 270-290.

Steven W. Lewis, "The potential for international and transnational public service advertising in public spaces in American and Chinese global cities: Conclusions from a 2010 survey of advertisements in subways in Beijing, New York, Shanghai and Washington, DC," Public Relations Review, November 2011.

April 7: Exam 3 posted on OWL-Space

Section IV (Group Project Presentations)

April 9: Group Presentations of Media Study using TCP Advertising Image Archive

April 14: Group Presentations (cont'd)
April 14: Exam 3 Essays Due Start of Class: Hard Copy Handed in and File Version Sent Via Email

April 16: Group Presentations (cont'd)

April 21: Group Presentations (cont'd) and last day of class

April 23: Group Presentations (cont'd) and last day of class

April 24: Electronic copies of individual reflections on advertising project due by 5 p.m., sent to all three instructors via e-mail